



Cameron



The Magazine of Clan Cameron New Zealand Inc.



Vale



Vol 57 No 6
December
2023

“Cameron”

is the magazine of the
Clan Cameron Association of New Zealand Inc.

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A Message from our Chief.....

I wish all clan members across New Zealand the very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year, and thank you all for everything you do on behalf of the Clan Cameron Association. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the international clan gathering in August 2024 at Achnacarry.

Donald Andrew Cameron of Lochiel



And A Message from our Commissioner..

Vale.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Lochiel over the last month. The 27th chief of Clan Cameron passed away last month at the age of 77 and is already greatly missed. Our chief since 2004, Donald Angus Cameron has had a keen interest in the Clan Cameron Associations. Just a week before he died he was working on the next international gathering. He had emailed me to ask how many of our New Zealand members might be making their way to Lochaber next year.

I want to acknowledge his life well lived. As his family said to me last week he refused to be defined by the MS illness he had. He was an active member of the Lochaber community and widely admired.

The mantle of leadership has passed to a new generation Donald Andrew Cameron the 28th Chief of Clan Cameron. Sarah McQueen and I called at Achnacarry to pay our respects to the family on behalf of the New Zealand Camerons. We were warmly greeted at the door by one of his young grandsons in an All Black t shirt!

We spent some great time with Donald, and his sisters Catherine, Lucy and Emily. The family are very touched by the show of support from the New Zealand Camerons. The new Lochiel said he was much impressed with the First Light Exchange, and thought it gave real meaning to our Clan Cameron Associations. He hoped in time that it might be broadened to include other countries in. He thanked Sarah and I for coming and being part of the funeral.

Our new Lochiel was at pains to stress that the International Gathering will proceed next year. The late Lochiel was very much looking forward to it and actively planning the events. They look forward to welcoming us to Achnacarry next August.

Sarah is off to a very fine start to her exchange programme. We were able to introduce her to a broad range of people from the area. She is being supported by Finlay's parents Ken and Rhona. While I was in Lochaber I was able to see Astie Cameron (the first First Lighter and Achnacarry Estate Manager), Bill Cameron, Finlay and Sarah of course.

In other news we have as Clan Cameron been offered a wonderful privilege of being the host clan at Waipu Highland Games this year. I hope you might be able to call in to see us and join in receiving the other clans at this wonderful event.

I wish you all the very best for the festive season. Thank you all very much for your support of Clan Cameron. I look forward to seeing you all at the Highland Games over the summer.

Aonaibh ri Cheile

Dale Cameron Bailey



We wish you a
Happy
Christmas and hope
you keep safe and
well in 2024



Next Magazine Deadline is 15 Jan 2024

Printed By

The gentle gentle Lochiel

By Dale Cameron Bailey

I was very pleased to be able to travel to Scotland at short notice to represent us at the funeral of our Chief. Flying into Glasgow I was first able to meet up with Finlay where he is pursuing his studies in piping. I travelled by Train to Fort William the next day. The autumn colours alongside the West Highland line were absolutely stunning. It's been some 30 years since I was last in Scotland and was struck by the stunning beauty of the place. I have not been in Autumn before so it was quite a revelation to see how beautiful it is at this time of year.

I was met by Ken Cameron (Finlay's Dad) and Sarah McQueen at Tulloch station near Spean bridge. A very small country station close to Ken and Rhona's home. A warm welcome awaited me at their home Inverlair. Their home is set in a beautiful Scottish highland countryside about 20 minutes drive from Fort William near Spean Bridge.

The next morning we went to Achnacarry to meet with Catriona Fleming and her son Sandy who run the Clan Cameron Museum. We were able to talk to them about the Museum and look again at the exhibitions. There are some great items on display. After a small amount of negotiations the New Zealand Clan Cameron badges are now on sale at the Clan Cameron Museum at Achnacarry.

That afternoon we called at Achnacarry again, this time to meet the new Lochiel. We were met warmly by the family who thanked us for making such the long trip. His widow Lady Cecil spoke warmly of our support and how touched we had come such a long way to attend the funeral.

The family spoke warmly of their family association with New Zealand, their interest starting with their grandmother being a New Zealander. They were so very pleased to talk about the family's close association with New Zealand and the activities of Clan Cameron. Sarah and I were shown around the house and the many treasures. The late Lochiel had overseen a major restoration of the house so it was wonderful to see it looking so good.

The next day Sarah and I visited the amazing West Highlands museum in Cameron Square Fort William. Lochiel had a very active association with the Museum and served as its President. We met with the curator Vanessa who showed us the Cameron items and in particular the Jacobite exhibition. This is a superb collection of the items and a must see. A school class was about to have a lesson on a school visit on the Jacobite Jenny Cameron. The Museum were saddened by Lochiel's passing and was closed for the day of the funeral.

autumn colours were accentuated with the bright white layer of fresh snow across the surrounding hills.

The town of Fort William and the people from Lochaber gathered to pay their respects. Many were there early to join the service in the Episcopalian (Anglican) St Andrews Church. A live stream was for others in the Presbyterian church nearby for the overflow of mourners. In the church yard wreaths lined the walkway into the kirk, the combined wreath from the Clan Cameron Associations near the door. The wreath shown here had flowers to represent the branches of our clan associations North America, Australia, France and New Zealand. We had also sent flowers to the Lady Cecil and the family to Achnacarry.

There were some 600-700 mourners including many of Lochiel's many friends from England.

Our new Lochiel had invited Sarah to join us in the church, which was full of family and friends along with the various groups and organisations he supported. We were close to the front with other representatives of the Clan Cameron Associations.

The interior of the church was quite beautiful the low autumn sun streaming through the beautiful stain glass windows. Our new Lochiel provided a great eulogy celebrated the life of his father, despite the sudden passing. He spoke about his father's pride in Clan Cameron.

As a clan chief, my father was very proud of his role and greatly enjoyed doing it. In his younger years, he had great fun travelling the world and meeting Cameron clans-folk in North America, Australia and New Zealand.

And as chief, Dad would always love welcoming people to Achnacarry, realising that for clan members it was their home as much as ours. He would show people round and usually end the visit with an instruction to go and spend as much money as possible in the clan museum.

Donald concluded by describing his father as the gentle, gentle Lochiel.

It was followed by the most beautiful, appropriate and poignant gaelic song .

THE BRAES OF LOCH EIL which was sung by Flòraidh Stevenson

O thèid is gun tèid
O thèid mi dhachaidh
Gu Bràighe Loch Iall
Far am bith fiadh s'an langan

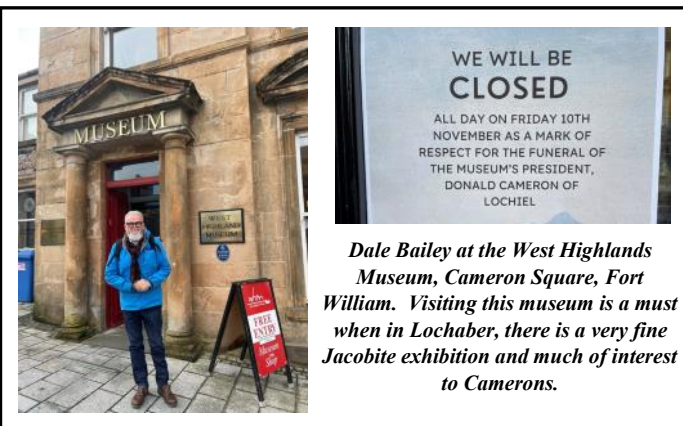
*Oh, I'll go, I'll surely go.
Oh, I shall go home,
To the Braes of Loch Eil
Where the roaring stags are.*

When Lochiel was piped out of the church his widow Lady Cecil was escorted by the new Donald the Younger his grandson. And so the generations carry on. The late Lochiel was piped out by Astie Cameron, the very first First Lighter to the tune of "The march of the Cameron Men."

Internment was private to the family only, but the community was invited to Achnacarry. As we entered the house there was an Honour guard of the Commando veterans.

We shared afternoon tea, glass of wine and whisky with a wide range of mourners and friends under the Cameron Culloden banner.

The afternoon remained fine, in a wet week in the highlands. It was a special but sad time to be there.



Dale Bailey at the West Highlands Museum, Cameron Square, Fort William. Visiting this museum is a must when in Lochaber, there is a very fine Jacobite exhibition and much of interest to Camerons.

The Funeral

The day of the funeral dawned with a sharp frost and fresh snow on the hills around Fort William and Lochaber. The

From the Branches....

Auckland by Rob Cameron

The Scottish Clans Association annual dinner planned for the 14th of October was cancelled this year due to low interest. This was on a busy day, as there was a pipe band miniband competition on the same day. Also, the Hamilton Caledonian Pipe Band managed to organise a recital with Callum Beaumont who recently won the Glenfiddich Invitation Solo Competition on the same day. Unfortunately, Callum didn't make it into the country, so this recital was also cancelled.



Sarah McQueen began her First Light journey on the 30th of October. A small group saw her off including her Grandfather Neil Cameron, parents Duncan and Jean McQueen, Bryan Haggitt and myself. Sarah has made a photo blog available through Instagram and Facebook. If you are interested search for Sarah2Scotland.

I was saddened to hear about the passing of Donald Cameron of Lochiel Chief of Clan Cameron. This was very unexpected, and I am sure that there were a few of us keen to meet him at next year's Gathering in Scotland. Dale travelled to Scotland for the funeral which was on Friday 10th of November. The funeral was live streamed which started at 1 am Saturday in New Zealand. Unfortunately, the sound was not very good during the live stream but was improved when they released the video about a week later.

Our branch has begun making preparations for the Waipu Highland Games. As host clan, we will have our tent at the head of the clan alley as well as a couple of other duties. We will be hoping to get representation from other branches and Dale has put a request out for this. As this will be the main highland games for our branch region we will try and make this an effort to get our members to attend. All in all, it should be a great day.

I was elected President at the Scottish Clans Association AGM on 9th October, taking over from David Harvey. The Association has been working with the RNZPBA Auckland Centre to initiate a clan alley at the next Pipe Band Nationals competition held on the 15th and 16th of March in Auckland's North Shore. Auckland Branch will be representing Clan Cameron across these 2 days; however, further details are still yet to be released.

I am also gearing up for Santa parade season, starting with Auckland Farmers on Sunday 26th of November, hopefully, it won't be raining like last year. Other parades include Te Atatu, Papakura, and Papatoetoe.

The Auckland branch committee has had to make some forward planning for events and meetings next year due to the Clan gathering in Scotland. We have had to plan around a gap of about 2 months due to various members' time overseas. We have set our AGM for the 3rd of March, which will be at the Parnell Cricket Club and there will be a BBQ after the meeting. After a few years of disruption, we have been able to bring this back to the usual time. Auckland branch members will have a further notification of this in the next newsletter. Our branch annual dinner has been brought forward to 6th of July. Planning for entertainment has begun and looks to be another great night for our guests which will be held at The Parnell. This will be a good opportunity to send off the Auckland Members who will be attending the Clan gathering. We are also planning for a post Christmas get together for Auckland members for 20th of January. More details will be made available closer to January.

I hope everyone has a great Christmas and happy New Year and is able to spend time with friends and family over the holidays.

Manawatu by Anne Walker

Clan Cameron Manawatu members were saddened to hear of the death of Lochiel in the last couple of weeks. For those from our area who had the honour of meeting him in Scotland (including my parents Mary (née Cameron) and Bob Barber, and my daughter Kimberley Walker during her time as a First Lighter), he was remembered as a wonderful man, who was very keen to meet clan visitors to Achnacarry and greeted them with warm and hospitality. We shared the newspaper obituary with our branch members, via email and through our Facebook page, and felt sure Clan members were fascinated to read of Lochiel's full and interesting life, and the legacy he left.



Clan Cameron Manawatu made a financial contribution to the Presidents Travel Fund to assist our NZ President Dale Bailey's attendance at the funeral last week, and were grateful Dale travelling to represent us all.

Currently the Branch is planning for attendance with our tent (with haggis tasting and Christmas shortbread giveaways) at the Jenny Mair Highland Day in the Square in December, and the Turakina Highland Games in January 2024. It will be a busy summer of activities which we are optimistic will be held in lovely summer sunshine this year."

Hawke's Bay by Hamish Cameron

The one shock that shook us the most of recent times -- and we've had a few -- was the unexpected passing of Lochiel, Chief of Clan Cameron. He died in his sleep at his home at Achnacarry Castle on the 20th October. His funeral held at Fort William on the 10th November. We are fortunate that Dale Bailey or Commissioner was able to attend and to personally pass on the condolences of all of us in New Zealand. Although Dale enjoys travel, I think the speed and quick turnaround of this foray will have tested even his appetite. Thank You Dale for your commitment.....



As I write this Hawkes Bay is going "ga-ga" over Robbie Williams concert being held at the iconic Mission Estate Winery. This is the first concert he and his 80 strong entourage will give on a COVID delayed World Tour. Since Hawkes Bay was his only venue in New Zealand, tickets were expected to be at a premium..... so it proved -- the 25,000 Tickets were all sold-out in "One Hour".

Now comes his first departure from a meticulously planned itinerary. A second concert at the same venue the next day was also near sold out in a matter of hours-- all held outdoors in beautiful weather.

The influx of visitors, and indeed Robbie Williams own entourage, has been calculated to inject about 8 or 9 million dollars into our region, much to the delight of all those looking for some sign of a return to the joys of summer.

Summer ----- that means Christmas!

From Hawkes Bay we wish everybody a Happy -- fulfilling and safe Christmas holiday break.

Bay of Plenty by Tanya Cameron

Bay of Plenty branch are currently not active. We hope to get together in February after a good turn out at Paeroa Highland Games helping to man the tent.

Please make an effort to pay your \$25 overdue membership from last year and outstanding \$25 membership for this year.



Although we are not currently an active branch, this amount covers you receiving your newsletter, just, and many of you haven't paid last year's subscription.

Please bring your subscription up to date as when the Bay of Plenty Branch goes into remission at the next National AGM in May 2024, those that aren't financial members will no longer be receiving their newsletter.

Please email me on <tanya.cameron30@gmail.com> if you have any questions.

Canterbury by Rae Magson and Nick Cameron

Nick Cameron attended the Hororata Highland Games, which I believe was very successful. He has sent me the names of several people interested in being Clan members, so I will be in touch with them.

Otherwise little has been happening.

The Clan Cameron Canterbury once again had a tent display at the Hororata Games with free haggis again being quite a draw card. The tent was attended by my wife Julie and John Cameron from Manawatu. My son Hamish and his partner Ann Marie were also to help but on the night before the day they unfortunately tested positive for Covid. The games was attended by more than 10,000 people and we had a number of people enquire to join our branch. My morning started at 4am with the cooking of the haggis and John and I arrived at Hororata at 7am to erect our tent display. I then went on to erect the 2 band tents and caught up with Alan and Morea Cameron from Blenheim who were competing "against us!". Our Caledonian 4a Band did well playing 6 new young pipers with 18 pipers in the circle finishing a creditable 2nd out of 10 bands in the set and medley events. The weather was very kind and although it was a very long day for all of us .. it was very worth while. The day finished for John and I at 5.30pm with the dismantling of the tent display.

We have been incredibly proud of Dale making the effort to fly to Scotland and represent us at Lochiel's passing and the feed- back he has given us all on the event.



Iar by Shona Wallace

Clan Cameron Iar has been very quiet. We have not had a get together for some time as no one could attend a meeting when it was called. Then sadly both Neville and I lost family members.



However on a brighter note we have managed to organise a meeting for the 7th November. Sadly I have to report that Clan Cameron Iar was voted into recess due to lack of active members. Everyone would like to remain as on line members so executive will have to get a move on and organise a group. Most of us are too old to travel to other areas for meetings.

We wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and long may your lum reek.

Wellington—Wairarapa by Graeme Cameron

Wellington/Wairarapa Branch Christmas Get-Together and BBQ at Kaitoke Regional Park - Saturday 9th December 11.30am – 3.30pm.

We have planned this as a family event so please bring grandchildren, friends and family,



neighbours, etc. We have booked the BBQ area for 40+ people so there will be plenty of room.

Bring your own food and drink, picnic lunch, perhaps a chair or rug for sitting on.

RSVP to

Graeme Cameron glcameron@outlook.com 04 4977 6250

Rob Cameron opakirob@gmail.com 027 480 2374

First Light News

by Bryan Haggitt—First Light Convenor



Sarah, our first outward First Lighter for over 10 years, finally departed for Scotland last month. Sending her off from Auckland Airport were her parents Duncan and Jean McQueen, grandfather Neil Cameron, Auckland Branch President Rob Cameron and First Light Convenor Bryan Haggitt.

After her lengthy flight she was met at Glasgow Airport by Finlay Cameron, Scotland's First Lighter who was in NZ last summer, and his parents Ken and Rhona Cameron. Ken and Rhona are most kindly hosting Sarah at their home at Inverlair, not far from Achnacarry and Fort William. Shortly after arriving at Inverlair Sarah was joined there by our Commissioner, Dale, following the untimely passing of Lochiel.

Huge thanks to Ken and Rhona for their generosity and hospitality! With the funeral, Sarah has had a very fast introduction to Lochiel's family, Scotland's Commissioner Roddy Cameron, and so many other Clan members who came from far and wide to attend.

Sarah promises to keep us informed of her time in Scotland. This is truly a marvellous opportunity for her – to explore the land of her forbears but also for her to seek out future employment. Sarah graduated with a PhD in bio medicine and we look forward to hearing from her of her travels and as to what opportunities come her way.



Sarah at the wheel of the bronze replica in Cameron Square of the famous Model T Ford which was driven up the Ben in 2011.

See story about this car and Bill Cameron's annual trip to bring down snow from the summit of the Ben in the August 2023 newsletter.

Photo: Dale Bailey

President Dale Cameron's visit to Scotland to attend Lochiel's Funeral



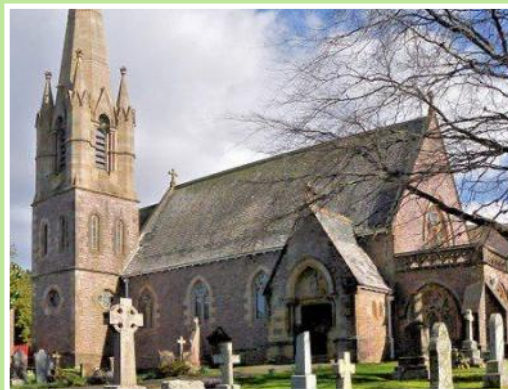
Wreath of the Clan Cameron associations of Scotland, North America, Australia, France and New Zealand?. New Zealand represented by the fern.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Fort William, in which Lochiel's funeral service was held



Honour guard of Commando veterans greet mourners at Achnacarry. Finlay and his father Ken enter Achnacarry.



The Clan Cameron Associations pew in St Andrew's church

Dale Bailey and Roddy Cameron, Commissioner Clan Cameron Scotland



Paying our respects to the family of the late Lochiel at Achnacarry. Lucy Maundrell, Dale Bailey, Donald Cameron of Lochiel, Sarah McQueen, Catherine Trotter, Emily Cameron and her baby Jordie being cradled by her aunt.



L to R: Roddy Cameron, Finlay Cameron, Dale Bailey, Sarah McQueen and Rhona Cameron at the Inverlair home of Ken and Rhona Cameron

Sarah in Scotland



A Happy First Lighter.



With Finlay Cameron at Ahnacarry



At the West Highland Museum, Cameron Square, with President Dale Cameron and Vanessa Martin, Curator/ Manager



At Ahnacarry with former First Lighter Bill Cameron and Dale



With Ken and Finlay Cameron. Ken is Finlay's father



At the National Piping Centre, Glasgow where she will be studying



A rural scene



Beautiful Scotland. Left: with Toddy.



Centre: Glasgow Cathedral and the Royal Infirmary



Right: Inverlair Lodge



Left: The kilt sculpture, made by Jeff Thomson and won by Judy Cameron at the Auckland dinner auction for First Light, in its resting place in Judy and Don's home. Above: Farewelling Sarah at Auckland airport. Neil Cameron, Sarah McQueen, Bryan Haggitt, Duncan and Jean McQueen, and Rob Cameron

Can you tell us about your Cameron Family? *By David Weston*



grandchildren. (The chart I have included only allows for 4 children, so if you have more children you can complete an extra chart).

For those who know little about your family history you may also want to find out more about your ancestors.

There are a number of web sites that will provide guidance, including:-

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/genealogy-and-family-history>

https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/familyhistory/get_started/

<https://www.thefhguide.com/introduction.html>

Also many local libraries have staff or volunteers who are happy to help out and the New Zealand Society of Genealogists, <https://genealogy.org.nz/>, have numerous local branches who will help out people.

Any information for the data base can be emailed to me at clancameronhistory@gmail.com or posted to me at 14, Tanguru Street, Whanganui..

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year and look forward to information on your Cameron family reaching me in 2024.

David Weston
Genealogist
Clan Cameron NZ

By Editor: This article and the chart have been placed on the Clan Cameron website. If you have difficulty down loading the chart please email me and I will email one to you.

Over 40 years ago we asked members to provide information on their Cameron ancestors who came from Scotland to New Zealand. This information is what our New Zealand Clan Cameron data base is based on and a few people have added to it over the years.

While some of you may have been the members who provided the information, I know I did, it is possible that it was provided by your parents or even grandparents. My understanding is the information was provided as a resource for New Zealand Clan Cameron.

I use the database to answer queries from people trying to trace their Cameron family. At this point in time the information is only available to people related to those on the data base.

It would be useful if the data base was updated with information of the younger generations of Cameron's as this will increase its use in providing information to enquirers and linking family branches.

Given that Christmas is a time when families traditionally get together it may be a good time to put some information together. There are charts available to record your descendants, and I have included one, but it is also perfectly alright just to write down the details of your children and

Clan Gathering Achnacarry

August 2024

Provisional Programme

The bare bones of the provisional programme goes something like this:

Thursday 1st August: Evening Welcome Reception – venue TBA.

Friday: Talks to be held in the marquee in front of Achnacarry House. Likely to include Gaelic Language; Achnacarry Estate; Culloden and the '45; Famous Camerons; Commandos and Armoury; Commando Association; Genealogy; Clan Cameron Septs; Tartan.

Saturday (out-doors): March Past, headed by pipers (welcomed by Lochiel); Battle Re-enactment; Jacobite Culture and Dress; Highland Games for children; Pipe Band; Highland Dancing; Falconry; Sheep Dog and Sheep-shearing demonstrations; Deer-carrying Ponies; Chainsaw carving; Highland Cattle; Fly-casting; Tug-o' War; Trials Motorcycle; Segways, Axe-throwing, archery; Laser Clay-pigeon Shooting; Wood-turning; Treasure Hunt.

Saturday (manned tables in the marquee): Ben Nevis Distillery (whisky); Bagpipe-making (Finlay); Historical Archives and Genealogy; Artist; Achnacarry Museum; Hydro-power; Highland Soap; Highland Bookshop; Wood-craft; Camanachd Association (Shinty).

These day-time activities will be supported by various food and drink outlets.

Saturday Evening: Ceilidh in the marquee, with traditional music from Lochaber musicians, bar area, dancing, Gaelic (and other) singing – plus the opportunity for individual and group participation.

Sunday: Church service at Achnacarry; barbecue.

Note that these are proposed or provisional – nothing set in stone. If we get decent weather, especially on the Saturday of course, that will really set the whole thing off nicely. There are also guided walks proposed as well, but nothing firm yet.



The 2009 Gathering. The New Zealand group, with some Trans Tasman Camerons, pose with the late Lochiel in front of the Castle. Photo: Erina Wood.

It was with great sadness that we received the news of the death of our Chief, Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel, aged 77.

Donald was born in London on 2 August 1948 and died on 20 October 2023. He became our 27th Chief in May 2004, following the death of his father, Sir Donald Hamish Cameron, who had strong New Zealand connections through his marriage to Lady Margaret.

I first met Donald Hamish when he visited New Zealand, with Lady Margaret, in 1968. Their visit put new life into our Association in New Zealand. He asked me if I would consider re establishing the Auckland Branch, which was in recession. This I was able to do, with the valuable assistance of Brian Cameron, who had organised Lochiel’s visit to Auckland. I remember Lochiel’s many letters to me during the formative years of the Auckland Branch and my fondest memory is of him standing in the rain, spurning shelter, greeting his clansfolk at the 1989 Achnacarry Gathering and then throwing his home open for people to trample through.

It was at this gathering that I first met Donald Angus. When my wife Ruth apologised to him for the folk who walked through the castle without removing their wet, muddy Wellington boots, Donald gave her a hug and said “don’t worry, my dear, we will get the cleaners in tomorrow”.

I next met Donald Angus in May 2004, when I represented you all at Donald Hamish’s funeral. New Zealand representation was very well received by the family and, as well as having a seat reserved at the funeral service, I was honoured to be invited to join the family at the graveside. It was wonderful that our president, Dale, was able to represent you all at Donald Angus’s funeral service.

Donald Angus married Lady Cecil Kerr, OBE, daughter of the 12th Marquess of Lothian in 1974 and had four children; Catherine, whose Godfather is the King and was a young bridesmaid at the 1981 wedding of Prince Charles and Diana Spencer. She is married to Henry Trotter.

Donald Andrew Cameron, Conservative Member of the Scottish Parliament for The Highlands and Islands, who succeeds as 28th Chief of Clan Cameron. He is married to Sarah, and their first child, Donald Fergus, born 2010, is now Donald the Younger of Lochiel.

Lucy, whose Godmother is Anne, The Princess Royal. She is married to Lt. Colonel Richard Maundrell.
Emily Cameron

Donald Angus Cameron of Lochiel was educated at Harrow School, London, England. He graduated from Christ Church, Oxford University, Oxfordshire, England, with a Master of Arts (M.A.). He gained the rank of 2nd Lieutenant between 1966 and 1968 in the service of the 4/5th Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, Territorial Army. He held the office of Justice of the Peace and the office of Deputy Lieutenant of Inverness-Shire. He was invested as a Fellow, Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1971. He held the office of Lord-Lieutenant of Inverness-shire from 2002 to 2021. In 2017 he was appointed a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

During his time as Lochiel, he modernised the estate, adding hydroelectric power generation to the traditional forestry and farming, and undertook a ten year restoration of the Achnacarry Castle.

Although suffering from the effects of multiple sclerosis For a number of years, he was always cheerful and



A recent photograph of the late Donald Angus Cameron, 27th Chief, published by Clan Cameron France on the occasion of his 77th birthday. Thank you Clan Cameron France

uncomplaining and loved by all. Like his father, who had done so much to unite the clan around the world, he was always interested in what clanfolk overseas were doing, and at the time of his death was very involved with planning next year’s gathering.

We will all miss him very much.

Our thoughts and condolences are with Lady Cecil and the family at this time and particularly with Donald Andrew as he takes over the responsibilities of Chief of Clan Cameron.



Left: A well known photo titled “The Three Donalds” which can now be called “The Three Lochiels” Above: This photo appeared in our August 2010 newsletter courtesy of the late Lochiel, and shows Donald Andrew, the present Lochiel, and his wife Sarah rejoicing in the birth of Donald Fergus on 3 July 2010.

Donald Andrew Cameron's Eulogy at The Funeral of Donald Angus Cameron, 27th Chief.

We are hugely grateful to see so many people here today, many of whom have come so far, to say their farewells. Words cannot express how much solace that brings, as we mourn Dad's passing.

His death was unexpected and the shock of it, combined with a sense that it came too early, has made it harder to bear. He was happy and well, and had lots of plans for the future. As one of his friends put it: "He was alive and vivid in this world". After he died, we wondered if he had left any instructions for his funeral. Catherine and I searched high and low looking for a letter or an envelope with a detailed list of requirements, favourite hymns, readings etc. There was of course, nothing.

This was a man who loved life, and never wanted to think about the end of it, let alone make plans.

If Margi and others will forgive me, I think the only eyebrow he might have raised about his funeral arrangements, would be the number of Campbells involved in the service.

But here we are. I would like to start by taking the opportunity, on behalf of our family, to thank all those people who played a part in caring for our father. There are too many to mention by name. But *you* know who you are, and *we* know who you are. And our gratitude to you for looking after him so well is immense.

People loved Dad and he loved them back. Above all, he loved his family, his friends, his clan, and his community.

Dad's family was everything to him. First and foremost, Mum. Their 49 year marriage was deep and loving and spirited, and full of understanding and compassion towards each other. Together, they provided the warmest of homes and safest of havens for Catherine, Lucy, Emily, and me.

As a father, he gave the four of us his love, unconditionally. But he went beyond that. He never had any expectations or placed any demands on his children. There was never any pressure. He let us be. We knew he had our back, and his relentless optimism and wise counsel kept us going through the ups and downs of life.

Later on, he absolutely loved his grandchildren who brought him so much happiness – from high fives with the toddlers, to competitive games of backgammon, and illicit toast and golden syrup with the teenagers.

Dad's wider family meant the world to him too. He had a happy, idyllic childhood with his sisters Anne and Caroline, and brother Johnny.

As a clan chief, my father was very proud of his role and greatly enjoyed doing it. In his younger years, he had great fun travelling the world and meeting Cameron clans-folk in North America, Australia and New Zealand.

And as chief, Dad would always love welcoming people to Achnacarry, realising that for clan members it was *their* home as much as ours. He would show people round and usually end the visit with an instruction to go and spend as much money as possible in the clan museum.

If anyone's heart was in the Highlands, it was his. Dad was blissful at Achnacarry and was proud of it too. Catherine recalls being in a car with him on the way to the church for her wedding, expecting sound advice and reassurance from Dad, but he was far more interested in commenting on how glorious Achnacarry looked in the sunshine.

He was happiest there, in his own home, in his own country.

And in dying peacefully at Achnacarry, we are comforted that he was in the place he loved more than anywhere else.

When he turned 70 he held a birthday party there and I recall him saying how much pleasure he took from simply being with his local friends who came from all walks of life across

Lochaber. His deep fondness for the community around him was self-evident.

With Dad, there was always a solution to any problem. And that was true throughout his life, even after his diagnosis with MS. Nothing was insurmountable.

I don't want to dwell on his MS because Dad didn't dwell on it.

But I do want to pay tribute to the bravery he showed in facing it and the example he set in enduring it.

He was neither defeated nor defined by his condition. And he didn't let us, as a family, be defined by it either. It faded into the background.

He never complained. In fact, he never even wanted to talk about it, always turning the conversation back on whoever was with him, wanting to talk about *their* life and how *they* were.

For someone who became less physically strong over time, he had an incredible inner strength. And if, at times, he became tired, he *never* tired of being positive. This was someone for whom the expression "glass half full" was their guiding principle.

It's also important to remember him at all times of his life, not just his later years.

The keen sportsman who excelled in football and rugby at school and loved fishing and shooting at home. One stalker said he was so "fleet-footed" on the hill, a natural rifle shot who knew exactly where to lie and shoot from.

One friend talked of the "dashing Donald", the elegant Highland dancer who would be the prize catch at reeling parties. Driving about in a TR6 in his twenties, he was a glamorous figure whose chat-up lines would invariably involve a reference to how he looked like Steve McQueen. He loved music too, especially singing. He always said he had a terrible voice but it never stopped him.

Fun and laughter were never far away. He would laugh at jokes with tears running down his cheeks and clutching his chest in hysterics.

He was the master at putting people at ease with a warm smile and a little joke of his own. His cheeky sense of humour and friendly nature sometimes went too far for us children – Emily recalls her embarrassment at one start of term at her convent school, when he insisted on kissing every nun "hello", and even took the deputy head for a ride on his mobility scooter.

He was genuinely interested in people and inquisitive about their lives. He would happily approach anyone, and was at ease with everyone, endlessly showing kindness to all, especially to people he had only just met.

Lucy says that when she thinks of him, it is with his arms wide open to us all. Whether it was at home, or in a crowded room, he was always there, arms spread open to everyone he cared for. And if we could wish for anything, it would be that is how he was greeted by God, arms wide open in love.

To bring this to a close, let me just say this.

Dad achieved so much in his life.

But he also understood there is a difference between achievement and fulfilment.

And he was fulfilled.

What lessons he taught us.

How you can strengthen others, but do so gently.

How you can inspire others, but do so quietly.

And how you can show courage to all, but do so softly.

The Bengali poet, Tagore, wrote that "Death is not extinguishing the light, it is putting out the lamp, because the dawn has come." And as this dawn breaks, we say farewell.

Farewell to the kindest of friends.

Farewell to a lion-hearted father.

And, as so many have said, farewell to another gentle, gentle Lochiel.

With Sarah in Scotland

Kia ora koutou and greetings from Scotland. My time here in Alba has only just begun; nonetheless, I will provide in this report an update on how I have been spending my time so far. In a pleasing symmetry to Finlay's time in New Zealand as First Lighter, I have been in Scotland for two weeks at the time of writing. After a very gruelling ~36-hour trip over, I was warmly welcomed to Scottish soil by Finlay and his father Ken Cameron. Ken and Rhona have kindly taken me in, and I spent the first week in Scotland at their place: Inverlair Lodge in the Highlands.

It is Autumn time here and the Scottish countryside has been just idyllic with the most wonderful mix of orange, red and green. It has been a bit of a shock to the system the chilly temperatures but years of winters in Dunedin have prepared me for this. I spent most of my first week exploring the area around Inverlair, which included walking alongside Loch Treig, walking to the second intake of the Lochaber hydroelectric scheme and visiting Achnacarry. (All with little Toddy the Lochiel Terrier, who I adore). It was quite a juxtaposition to be leisurely taking in how beautiful this part of Scotland is compared the hectic laboratory work I was undertaking until earlier in the month!

The following week, I was joined in Inverlair by Dale in preparation for Lochiel's funeral. I will leave him to cover this time. I do want to mention it was absolutely wonderful to meet with Donald Andrew and his sisters at Achnacarry, and it was an honour to have the loveliest chat with them all.

For the past five days, I have been situated in Glasgow. The main purpose of this stay has been to undertake an intensive course with the National Piping Centre. These hour-long daily lessons have been invaluable for improving my piping and playing confidence. Of course, when not piping, I have been exploring this charming city and getting a crash course in traditional music with Finlay, which has included attending two traditional music sessions at local pubs. Additionally, I have spent some time visiting the Cathedral, the Barras, the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery, and Macintosh House and even had a scone and tea at the Macintosh tea rooms.

Many more adventures to come, and I will keep you updated in future magazines. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Clan Cameron New Zealand and anyone who has donated to the First Light Exchange for getting me here! I will keep you all updated via the newsletter, and if you would like to see more daily pictures of my trip, I have set up a Facebook and Instagram account under the username sarah2scotland to document my travels.

Best wishes,

Sarah



Coming Events

Saturday 9 December 2023
Wellington/Wairarapa Branch
Christmas Get-Together and BBQ at Kaitoke Regional Park - 11.30am – 3.30pm.
See W/W report page 5

Saturday 9 December 2023
Jenny Mair Highland Square Day
The Square, Palmerston North 8am – 6.30pm. A great day for all. See Manawatu Report on page 4.

Monday 1 January 2024
151st Waipu Highland Games
Clan Cameron will be Host Clan, so we would like lots of support.
Our tent will be there. A great place to meet Cameron visitors from overseas.
www.waipuhighlandgames.co.nz

Saturday 27 January 2024
159th Turakina Highland Games
Cameron Road, Turakina.
Great country games.
<https://turakinahighlandgames.co.nz/>

Saturday 10 February 2024
31st Paeroa Highland Games
Join us in our tent. Enjoy the piping and Tattoo.
<https://paeroahighlandgames.co.nz>

Sunday 3 March 2024
Auckland Branch AGM and BBQ
To be confirmed. Members will be advised by email and confirmed in the next newsletter.

Sat / Sun 15/16 March 2024
National Pipe Band Championships
Onewa Domain, Auckland North Shore.
The Cameron Tent will be there.

Saturday 4 May 2024
Clan Cameron NZ Gathering and AGM
Hawkes Bay Club, Napier.

Saturday 6 July 2024
Auckland Branch Annual Dinner
The Parnell, 10-20 Gladstone Road, Parnell. 6pm for 6.30pm.
Great company and great entertainment.
A farewell for those going to the gathering at Achnacarry

1st to 4th August 2024
Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry
A very full programme is being arranged which will include all the traditional gathering events - plus a lot more.
See Page 8



By Jean Macintosh (Hawkes Bay Branch) - These photos are of Invermaillie Bothy where my Great great-grandfather John Cameron (Big John) was born. He came to NZ in the Blenheim and settled in the Turakina area. My daughter Nicky Bonnor and I walked to the Bothy from the Clan Cameron museum at Achnacarry.



A Study of Light and Shade. Auckland Branch Committee Meeting
From Left: Neil Cameron, Dale Bailey, Rob Cameron, Duncan McQueen, Don Cameron, Brian Cameron, Hillary Hakaraia. Photo: Lena Orum.

Setting up the Cameron tent at the Hororata Highland Games
Julie Cameron and John Cameron ready for a busy day
Photo: Nick Cameron



Lest we Forget

Devonport New Zealand and Fort William Scotland

Photos: Bill Cameron and Editor